

Message Text

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SUBJ: NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL RE ANTAKYA SEVEN AND HAYES

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EDITORIAL APPEARING NEW YORK TIMES

AUGUST 11, 1973:

--APPEAL TO GENEROSITY. SIX YOUNG AMERICAN WOMEN AND ONE MAN HAVE SPENT THE LAST NINE MONTHS IN PROVINCIAL TURKISH JAIL--LIKE TOO MANY SUCH JAILS ALMOST EVERYWHERE ELSE, CROWDED, CRAWLING, INFECTIOUS AND GENERALLY NOISOME. THREE OF THE PRISONERS HAD DRIVEN ACROSS THE TURKISH BORDER IN MINIBUSES WHICH, ON INSPECTION, WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN 225 POUNDS OF HASHISH.

--THE OTHER FOUR CLAIMED TO HAVE DONE NO MORE THAN HITCH A RIDE; ONE OF THEM APPARENTLY WAS OF SUCH PERSUASIVE INNOCENCE THAT EVEN THE PROSECUTOR HAS BEEN TRYING, UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO HAVE HER CASE DISMISSED. ACCORDING TO THE MALE DEFENDANT'S CONFESSION, NONE OF HIS SIX COMPANIONS HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE HIDDEN HASHISH, MUCH LESS ANY

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INVOLVEMENT IN A DRUG RING.

--THE CASE OF WILLIAM HAYES, A YOUNG LONG ISLANDER, IS EVEN MORE POIGNANT. IN 1971 HE WAS DISCOVERED, AT THE ISTANBUL AIRPORT, TO HAVE HAD TWO KILOS OF HASHISH ON HIS PERSON--A QUANTITY TOO SMALL TO INDICATE ANY INTENT OTHER

THAN PERSONAL USE. ABOUT TO BE RELEASED A FEW WEEKS AGO AFTER SERVING THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF A FOUR-YEAR SENTENCE, MR. HAYES FINDS HIMSELF--AS THE RESULT OF AN APPEAL BY THE PROSECUTOR--FACING THE FAR MORE SERIOUS CHARGE OF SMUGGLING THOSE TWO KILOS (ALTHOUGH OUT OF THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN INTO IT). IF CONVICTED, HE COULD BE SENTENCED TO AS MUCH AS THIRTY ADDITIONAL YEARS.

--EXCESSIVE AS THESE PROJECTED PUNISHMENTS SEEM, ALL THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE DEFENDANTS ARE BEING TREATED EXACTLY LIKE OTHER NATIONALS WHO HAVE RUN AFOUL OF TURKEY'S STRINGENT ANTIDRUG LAWS--INCLUDING, IT SHOULD BE NOTED, TURKISH CITIZENS THEMSELVES. SECOND, WHAT MAY IMPRESS AMERICANS AS STRANGE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS--THE EXTREME DIFFICULTY OF GETTING BAIL, THE RIGHT OF A PROSECUTOR TO APPEAL FOR A HARSHER SENTENCE--ARE LEGITIMATE UNDER THE TURKISH AND OTHER JUDICIAL SYSTEMS. AND, FINALLY, GIVEN THE CONDITION OF THE JAILS, THE TREATMENT OF THE PRISONERS IS NOT INHUMANE, ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE SAID THAT THEIR PLIGHT WOULD BE FAR WORSE IF UNITED STATES OFFICIALS IN TURKEY WERE NOT DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ALLEVIATE THEIR CONDITION.

--NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS PROFOUND IRONY IN THE FACT THAT TURKEY, WHICH FOR SO LONG SUPPLIED SO MUCH OF THE OPIUM FOR THE WORLDWIDE DRUG TRAFFIC, SHOULD--NOW THAT IT HAS AT LAST ABANDONED THE CULTIVATION OF THE DEADLY POPPY--TREAT WITH INORDINATE SEVERITY THE LOWLIEST VICTIMS OF A LESSER DRUG. IF THESE DEFENDANTS ARE CONVICTED IN THE END, AMERICANS WILL HAVE EVERY JUSTIFICATION FOR HOPING THAT THEY WILL BE TREATED GENEROUSLY IN THE AMNESTY THAT IS EXPECTED TO MARK THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY THIS FALL OF THE FOUNDING OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC. ROGERS

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